



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

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North Coast Hemp Co-op forming



Dr Keith Bolton

The first meeting of a North Coast Hemp Co-operative will be held in June, to nurture the establishment of a sustainable hemp industry in the region.

Organised by hemp researchers Keith Bolton and Klara Marosszeky, the move is a response to recent changes in legislation allowing hemp production in NSW.

"We want to promote the principles of sustainability, co-operation and fairness in the development of a North Coast hemp industry," said Klara Marosszeky.

The body will act as a forum for those people interested in being involved in the North Coast hemp industry, whether as primary producers, processors, manufacturers, wholesalers or retailers.

It could also become an important communication medium for people involved in the new industry, with a library of useful agri-hemp literature.

Keith Bolton said, "It is important to note that the "North Coast Hemp Co-operative" is an interim name for the proposed organisation, and it is not a legal entity as such."

He said a priority of the first meeting is to identify potential structures that may be suitable, such as a not-for-profit organisation or cooperative, and to elect interim officers to provide guidance and support during the "non-entity" stage.

"We also want to establish a hemp germplasm collection that will allow seedstock to be available to North Coast hemp farmers," he said.

Anyone interested in being actively involved in the development of the North Coast industrial hemp industry is invited to attend the meeting on Saturday 21st June at 2pm, at the Ecotechnology Australia office, 43 Ewing Street, Lismore.

Please RSVP to Ecotechnology Australia on 6621-5123.



In the industrial hemp tent at MardiGrass

Community groups fill coffers at MardiGrass

Now that the dust has settled after Nimbin's MardiGrass, most of the village's community groups have been pleasantly surprised at the success of their fundraising efforts.

The local St Vincent de Paul organisation was particularly ecstatic.

Volunteer Nettie Kerr said that the shop was well patronised over the weekend and the donation bucket for the poor circulated around town raising \$140, "but our greatest achievement was running third in the float contest, for which we received a cheque for \$500."

"I would like to thank the diocese office, Lismore for allowing our branch to enter our float (recycled clothing) in the MardiGrass Parade," Nettie said.

Several community groups were recipients of the proceeds of the Saturday night doof. This year \$2000 in donations has been split between the Hospital, Skate Park, Rainbow Ridge Steiner School, Blue Knob and Nimbin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigades.



The Vinnies crew

Sausage sizzles proved lucrative for the fire brigades (\$2000), the Demons AFL club (\$4500), and the Nimbin and Tuntable Preschools, T-shirt sales helped the Skate Park, but the best result by far was Nimbin's A&I Society, which allowed camping on its

Showground, reportedly taking over \$18,000.

A&I President Phil Williams said, "100% of the income from the MardiGrass weekend will be invested in the maintenance and development of the Showground and its facilities."

The revenue really helps these small, tireless community groups, so it's odds-on that they'll be lining up to do it all again next year.



Nimbin Preschool's cafe



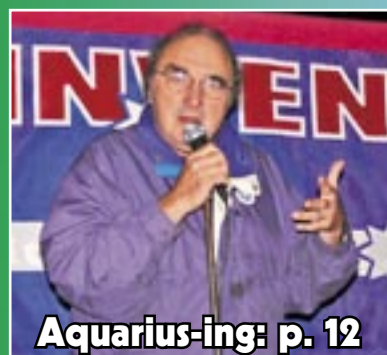
The Demons' BBQ



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